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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1944 No. 22

ON THE OFFENSIVE

THE United Nations are on the offensive and out of Great Britain and Italy our airmen are dealing mighty blows at the heart of Germany Stores of guns, aircraft vehicles, munitions, and fuel landing craft and equipment of every sort are now being assembled at bases all over the world to reinforce our offensive operations

GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL, *Chief of Staff of the United States Army at Washington on Monday, January 31*

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[Note.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* Madras War Review *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

HARDEST WORK YET TO BE DONE

"I know of no evidence to show that the enemy is on the point of giving in. The German people are in the hands of a desparate gang of criminals, who stand condemned by the whole world. They will not lose their grip on the instruments of their crimes until they are forced to do so or until those instruments break in their hands.

We have to break the Nazi will to resistance before we can have peace in Europe, and after that we have to deal with the Japanese barbarians, whose foul deeds you have heard of this week. You have only heard of a few of these terrible atrocities. The world will not be safe until we have subdued, and rendered powerless, these cruel barbarians who conceal, under the cloak of western civilization, the foulest and most depraved instincts of cruelty. Our task is not done. It may be that the hardest work has yet to be done."

Mr. C. R. ATTLEE, *Deputy Prime Minister, at Sunderland, on Monday, January* 31.

◆

WILL TRACK DOWN AND PUNISH THE JAPANESE

"American objectives in India or elsewhere in continental Asia are to expel and defeat the Japanese in very close collaboration with our British, Chinese and other Allies in that theatre. There is no question but that the Allies will track down and punish all Japanese individuals responsible for the recently disclosed atrocities.

The United States' task in the closest collaboration with British, Chinese and other Allies, is military—expelling the Japanese from Burma, Malaya, Java and other territories. We propose to help each other on the road and waters and above them eastward to these places and beyond Tokyo. No matter what individual or individuals are in command in the given areas, the purpose is the same. There will, of course, be plenty of problems when we get there. Their solution will be easier if we all employ to the utmost our resources of experience and good faith."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT *at Washington, on Tuesday, February* 1.

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THE THREE-PRONGED RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE

THE Red Army has scored important and spectacular successes on the Leningrad front. The freeing of the City of Lenin completely from the German blockade is an achievement of great importance. Russia's two North Front Generals followed up this great success by a drive from north and east to cut off the retreat of von Kuechler's armies. General Govorov pushed down from Gatchina along the railway, and General Meretskov, after breaking through the intermediate German positions along the Novgorod-Luga railway, pushed his tank spearheads piercing the German lines for a number of miles. His drive has resulted in the capture of the railway junction town of Tosno (Jan. 27) and the important railway station of Lyuban (Jan. 28) 50 miles south-east of Leningrad. The capture of four other railway stations south of Lyuban, and the occupation of Chudovo, 70 miles south-east of Leningrad, the last German stronghold on the Leningrad-Moscow railway, have resulted in clearing the enemy from the vital trunk railwayline from Moscow to Leningrad called the "October Railway" in commemoration of the October Revolution of 1917.

Two-fold Significance

THIS successful offensive on the Leningrad front may be stated to have a two-fold significance. Firstly, as General Govorov says, "A task of historical importance has been solved as a result of these battles. The City of Leningrad has been completely freed of enemy blockade and of barbaric artillery shelling." Secondly, it has got a much greater military significance, as it severely complicates matters for the Germans along the whole front. For a long time, all was quiet on this sector from the Gulf of Kronstadt to Lake Ilmen. Suddenly it has flared up into activity and become the scene of a major Russian offensive necessitating drain of German reserves. As a result of swift Russian moves, the German North Front defences reported to be the strongest on the whole Russian front, have been virtually liquidated.

OTHER troops of the Red Army are thrusting further south towards the trunk railway linking Staraya Russa with Pshov. One of the most powerful German strong points between Leningrad and Kiev is Staraya Russa, which has withstood the repeated assaults of the Red Army, but General Meretskov has exploited to the full the capture of Novgorod and is menacing Staraya Russa.

AT the northern end of the eastern front, General Govorov's tanks and artillery have made the Germans withdraw to Kingisepp, the last big Russian town before the Estonian border. There is a big double push by General Govorov's and General Meretskov's forces to encircle von Kuechler's army of 300,000 men. If General Meretskov's Volkhov front-line joins General Popov's new drive beyond Novo Sokolniki, the German bastion north of Nevel 50 miles west of the Latvian border, which was captured by the Red Army on Saturday (Jan. 29), the Red Army would have successfully developed a double thrust towards Latvia.

Immense Plan of Encirclement

HOW immense the Red Army's plan to encircle von Kuechler's forces is can be realized by the fact that General Popov's drive 250 miles south of Leningrad is sought to be linked up with the massive attacks north of Lake Ilmen. The Red Army is flinging its net wider and wider. On the one side, it is trying to tighten the arc around the Germans to the east, and on the other it is pushing forward west. The idea is to execute a double encirclement so that even if the Germans slip through the first ring they will be caught in the wider trap closing in farther west. The rapid speed of the Red Army's advance has thrown into confusion Kuechler's troops.

THE capture of Kingisepp at the Leningrad-Norva railway, nine miles from the Estonian border, is yet another feather in the Red Army's cap. The next line of German resistance after this will probably be along the northern course of the Luga which forms the Estonian boundary. The river Luga has already been crossed by the Russians at a number of points. Thus within less than three weeks since it launched its three-pronged offensive from Leningrad area on January 14, the Red Army has reached the Estonian frontier. The forces led by General Govorov who launched the offensive have smashed in four days the German defences built up during more than two years.

HOW far the double encirclement plan which has matured as a result of the three-pronged offensive on the Leningrad front will achieve its objective will be seen in a very short time.

A Special Military Mission, headed by Major-General Ralph Royce, Commanding General of United States Army Forces in the Middle East, paid a visit to His Majesty, King Ibn Saud of Arabia, at His Majesty's palace on the outskirts of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, recently.

Jeddah, forty miles from Mecca, is the only nearby port to which Moslem pilgrims to Mecca can come. The King had just returned from Mecca where he had been for some time for the annual pilgrimage. Later he will return to his palace at Ryuahd, several hundred miles to the north and east of Jeddah. Photo shows *King Ibn Saud seated at banquet table during the dinner given in honour of the American Military Mission. The King is flanked by the American Minister, Mr. James Moose* (right) *and Mr. Jorden, British Ambassador* (extreme left).

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Hitler raises the Red Bogey Again

Broadcasting from his Headquarters on the eleventh anniversary of his seizure of power, HITLER made yet another attempt to alienate the Allies from Russia by raising the Red bogey again. Throughout his speech a certain fear of the approaching doom of the Axis powers is clearly noticeable. He said, "The saving of Europe is a problem solely for the German people . . . This struggle will end in the greatest and most splendid victory of the German people." But every passage in his speech belies this pretence at confidence in German victory. His frantic attempt to sow the seeds of dissension between Britain and Russia even at this late stage is sufficient to show that he is convinced in his heart of hearts that German militarism cannot stand as against Allied unity. He conjures up a frightful vision of post-war Europe with Bolshevism stalking triumphant, and wants to goad Britain to fall out with Russia, because, after the war, the military prospects of a fight against the colossus of Soviet Russia will not be bright and the British Empire which will have to bear the brunt of the losses will not be able to carry out this task. His solicitude for the interests of the British Empire is not likely to deceive anyone, and HITLER knows it well, but he is still hoping against hope that something would happen to create disunity among the Allies.

As regards the ultimate end of this war, he admits, unconsciously, the truth when he says :

"This war cannot work out any differently from any other war in history."

All wars of aggression in the past have ended only in one way—the defeat and discomfiture of the aggressors. In picturesque language HITLER tries to strengthen the morale of his people. He says :

"Some of the best of our people have fallen in the storm, but every storm must subside some day. Then from the grim clouds the sun will shine forth once more on those who have remained steadfast and true to duty throughout the worst days."

But the New York *Times* points out that the sun goes westwards over Germany, rises to the thunder of the advancing Russian guns, and goes down to another thunder on the left over Italy, and to the mustering sounds of men and machines in Britain.

* * *

Britain preparing for the Zero Hour—Churchill's 1918 Statement on Strategy of Victory

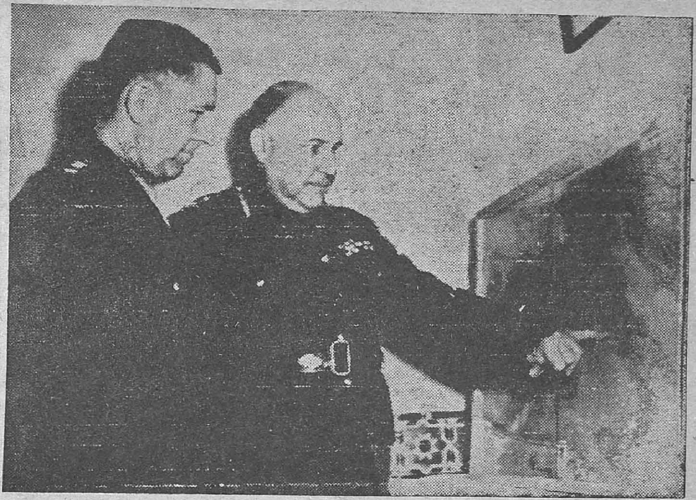
HITLER's spectre of the rising tide of Bolshevism will not, in the least, distract the attention of the British or deflect them from their duty of annihilating Nazism. Britain is preparing with great speed for the Zero Hour, when a full-scale attack on HITLER's *Festung Europa* will take place. This time the Allies are not in a mood, nor in a need, to take chances. They know what

GOERING, THE "MORALE BOOSTER" TOURS BOMBED AREAS—Goering's famous boast that no enemy planes would ever fly over Berlin is never mentioned now as the R.A.F. attacks have made the German capital the most bombed in the world. He has just completed a three months' tour in the bombed areas throughout Germany giving "pep-talks" to factory workers, anti-aircraft units, fighter stations, etc. Photo shows: *Hermann Goering visiting an Army training centre. He is watching a young soldier at target practice.*

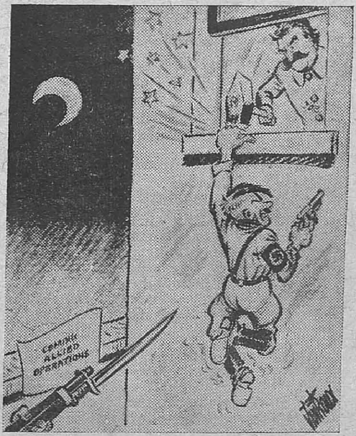
they have to do, and they are ready for it. Mr. CHURCHILL has indicated what the ideal strategy in a situation like this should be a quarter of a century ago. In a memorandum he submitted to the Imperial War Cabinet in August 1918 during the last war, he wrote:

> "What is going to win a battle like this is the intensity of the fighting effort during a limited period of time. The only way to save life is to secure the superiorities necessary for speedy victory."

What are these "superiorities?" They may be stated to be three in number—the fighting forces, production, and morale on the Home Front. As regards the first, there is now a colossal military organization which is in a state of readiness, awaiting the word "Go." The great invasion of Sicily was something like the dress rehearsal of one act of the great invasion that is about to be launched by this mighty Allied force. It may be recalled that as many as 3,000 naval crafts of all shapes and sizes were used in the invasion of Sicily. One can



Lieutenant-General Jacob L. Devers, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Theatre, meets General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Commander-in-Chief, in Algiers.



imagine the magnitude of the shipping problem in the case of an invasion of Europe itself. The United States Navy Under Secretary has given some rough idea of the vastness of this problem. He said that the success of the 1944 offensives in all theatres would depend upon the construction of 68,000 landing craft called for in the American shipping programme.

HITLER is keenly watching with apprehensive eyes the progress of the Allied ship-building programme. His despatch of ROMMEL for inspection of Europe's western and north-western fortifications betrays this apprehension and anxiety. HITLER's decision to reinforce the defence of Heligoland, which is the headquarters of Germany's serial mine-layers, is also inspired by a fear of what is to come. Germany's defensive naval strength has been, as our readers know, considerably crippled by the destruction of the mighty German battleship *Scharnhorst* and the sinking of three destroyers in the Bay of Biscay.

* * *

German Production affected—Effect of R.A.F. Raids and Allied Blockade

As regards production, the Allied programme is proceeding in many directions ahead of schedule and Allied blockade is having its effect in considerably slowing the pace of German production. Already grand work has been done by Allied Air Forces in blasting German centres of war production.

There is an unceasing and almost daily increasing offensive in the Allied strategic air war on Germany. German industries are feeling the weight of the mass air battles, concentrated bombing, and round-the-clock bombing by the R.A.F. at night and the U.S A. A.F. by day. It is probable that HITLER may, as a reprisal, launch an abnormal counter-offensive just before the final showdown. There is not much chance now of an actual invasion of Britain from the Continent, but Lord CROFT, Britain's Under Secretary for War, says that HITLER may still launch an attack on the British Isles by air-borne units. In their despair, the Nazis may try to make good the promises they have

(*Continued on page* 7.)

"GENEROSITY OF THE PEOPLE OF MADRAS"

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS has sent the following telegram, dated January 28, to His Excellency Sir Arthur Hope, the Governor of Madras:—

> "I gratefully acknowledge further magnificent gift of £1,850. The generosity of the people of Madras has given us valuable assistance in providing aircraft with which the Royal Air Force carry out their splendid work over the battle-fronts."

THESE MEN OUR FRIENDS

(*By* R.G.)

This one off Crete
Saving others himself would not save.
When dive-bombers hammered holes in the fleet
And the sea shuddered under an oily coat
He, who was strong and brave,
Plucked the poor swimmers from Death's throat,
Spendthrift of courage and strength.
Having no more to spend
He too was picked up at length
And made an end
Dying on the deck. Think on these things.

This one, yet younger,
Whom the young man's hunger
For mastery drove into the air
Long before the war, and made
A test pilot, eager to do and dare
In his searching trade,
They sent over Dunkirk when they threw
Pitifully few squadrons against the advancing
Tide of metal. Plummeting out of the blue
And in mastery dancing
Through the aerial mellay, his Spitfire
A rapier in his hand, he may have seen
The German squadrons break and retire.
But he did not return. He has been
And is not. Think on these things.

This one in Arakan
Breaking a path through the jungle and straining
To hold an untenable ridge for the sake
Of an ill-fated plan,
Grimly bearing the fever and the raining,
The hunger and exhaustion of the campaigning,
Like a bear at the stake
Baited by hounds on every side,
Many times wounded at last
Out in the jungle died.
We knew him well in the past:
But that is done. Think on these things.

This one in Singapore
Joined the volunteers and in reserve
To the regulars learnt to serve
While there was yet time, before
The ant columns of the Japanese,
Swarming to the shore and trickling through the trees
And over the causeway ended
A century in two months. His eye
Was true and his hand like a vice. Some splendid
Deed should have been his to do or die.
But like a trapped animal in a doomed city,
Food, ammunition, water, little or none,
He could only fight on till all was done.
Now he rots a prisoner, disdaining pity
But his worth utterly wasted. Think on these things.

Turn the globe round. Where will you not find
A place of dead men known to you, a scene
Of endurance staged by one of your kind?
They have been
And are not. Think on these things.

HOSPITALITY TO INDIAN TROOPS

Officers and men of H.M.S. Force in Madras were entertained by His Highness the Maharaja of Travancore to a magnificent garden party and a feast of dancing on Sunday, January 30th.

Royal hospitality still has a flavour all its own, for though royalty to-day retains its ancient dignity, it is informal and seeks to know its people.

Wandering at will among their guests, their Highnesses the Maharaja and Maharani chatted with them, introduced many of Travancore's soldiers to His Excellency the Governor of Madras and to other distinguished guests.

The Diwan of Travancore, Sir C. P. Ramaswamy, also moved proudly among the soldiers of Travancore, congratulating them and among the hundreds of guests military and civilians in the palace grounds.

The Maharaja was particularly pleased to see members of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) among his guests and had a special word of welcome for them.

Tea over, there was a rush to a conjuring show of great skill where the magician, a Punjabi with facile tongue and even more facile fingers, broke conjuring tradition by bringing not rabbits but roses out of a hat.

But the *piece de resistance* of the evening was a finished performance in Kathakalli dancing dominated by the famous Gopinath in "Mudras" and peacock and Rama dance. Rarely have soldiers Indian or British been privileged to see as fine exemplars of the art as Travancore provided and great bursts of applause testified to public appreciation.

FORWARD BAKERY'S 5,000 LOAVES A DAY

Nearly 5,000 loaves of bread are manufactured daily in a field bakery "somewhere on the Assam-Burma border". The bakery is supervised by a Madrassi Subedar, barely 23 years old, who designed and built the ovens. During Christmas he produced cakes, buns, rolls and biscuits for distribution to troops.

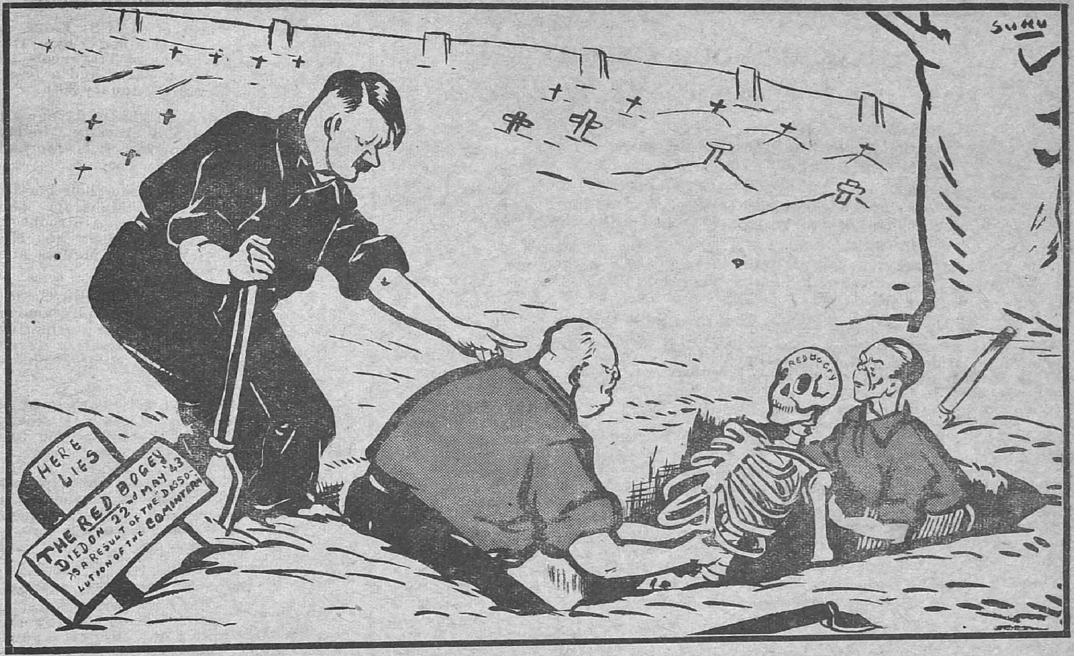
The quality of the bread, which is produced under hygienic conditions, comes up to the highest "home-made" standards. Work begins at 3 a.m. the last batch of loaves has left the oven by 5 p.m.

A stick of bombs fell around the bakery in an air raid, but baking went on and the loaves were duly delivered. In addition the men grow their own fresh vegetables for which seeds are provided free.

It was the raw recruit's first turn of sentry duty. So his voice was rather shaky as he exclaimed: "Halt! Who goes there?"

Out of the darkness came the startling reply: "Foe!"

"Have a heart, chum," the sentry protested. "I haven't had time to learn the answer to that one let!"



—Specially drawn for the MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

(Continued from page 5.)

made to the Germans regarding reprisals for the R.A.F. attacks on Germany. Further they may try to damage as much of the tremendous quantities of Allied equipment and supplies which are reaching the invasion ports. They may do this by aerial bombardment and even by using air-borne suicide squads. The Germans have a bomber force in reserve for this purpose. Their fighter strength in Europe has now been increased to about 2,000 front-line aircraft.

In a speech recently Sir STAFFORD CRIPPS referred to the probability of the enemy reprisals and said, "We have got to be prepared to meet the most violent onslaught of the enemy in the coming months." He added, "The year 1944 is going to be by far the most difficult not only on the fighting fronts, but on the factory front at home." On Britain's factory front now everything is brisk and bustling. The shortage in man-power has been met by the co-operation of women in war work. More than half the factory workers are women.

Morale of the British People We have roughly touched on two of the three "superiorities" required for victory. As regards the third, viz., morale, it may be noticed that the British people seem to be more preoccupied with rehabilitation plans and post-war schemes and controversies on political and social questions than with the fact that barely twenty miles away across the Channel the enemy stands ever vigilant and watchful. The British people have tightened their belts and are undergoing willingly privations to enable vast quantities of food to be stored up both for invasion purposes and for rehabilitation. They have consented ungrudgingly to have their rations reduced. In spite of heavy war taxation the British people are responding readily to war effort appeals and investing large funds in campaigns such as the War Weapons Campaign (£469 millions), the War Ships Campaign (£545 millions) and the Wings of Victory Campaign (£615 millions).

Thus it will be seen that the morale of the British people is more sound to-day than ever before, and no amount of Hitlerian propaganda to weaken their morale or create disunity as between the Allies would have any chance of success.

There's blokes, says Bill, what thinks this war
Is fought to line their pockets.
If I could get a toe behind
Just where their chassis is juiciest lined
I wouldn't bother to shout 'Fore!'
But send them off like rockets.
Lor luv a duck! says Bill to me.
Gorblimey, Bill! says I.

—*R.G.*

BRITAIN'S BUILDING VOLUNTEERS

By PHILIP MURRAY

CONSTRUCTION workers have been the pacemakers in Britain's race for victory. They have worked by torchlight in the black-out in the dead of winter, in snow, mud and slush in which men and machines have got bogged. They have worked all hours of the day and night to keep the homes of other war workers habitable after severe air raids.

Since early in 1942 the first on the scene of any new and urgent war building job have been the men of the Special Repair Service. These are the specialists—the Building Volunteers—who with the blessing of their respective Unions have set aside Union conditions and will turn their hands to any work in an emergency. They just go to the job and get on with it without asking questions. Of course, a craftsman can seldom work at another craft. But he can work as a labourer—and does.

HARD-EARNED PRIVILEGES SACRIFICED

Why have these men and their Unions given up so freely many of the privileges they fought so hard to gain is a question which naturally arises.

At the outbreak of war civil building on a large scale stopped. Building operatives by the thousand joined the Services or found other jobs. Later, therefore, when the war building programme increased in size and tempo, the brunt of construction work fell on the shoulders of older men and inexperienced youngsters. They gave their skill and strength unsparingly—but the shift of the working centres from town to country resulted in uneven distribution of the labour force, with inevitable results when the new year blitzes of 1941 came along.

At that time first aid repairs had to be given to houses if the morale of the nation was not to suffer and production in the war factories was to be maintained. Small local builders, most of them employing less than 20 men, were mobilized to do the job. But it was soon found that after a heavy attack they needed outside help.

Early in 1941, Britain's Minister of Works had been instructed by the War Cabinet to form a Directorate of Emergency Works to mobilize building labour for the rapid repair of damaged War factories.

So well did this organization function that in all fundamental principles it has not been changed since. The regional teams are still kept as independent as possible and take a great pride in getting to work as soon as, sometimes before, an air raid is over.

The S.R.S. soon proved its worth. It prided itself on "quickness off the mark." In the first blitz on Plymouth, the target of some of the Nazis' most savage raids, many thousands of houses were destroyed, although factories were but little damaged. On the morning after this raid more than 400 men from all over Devon and Cornwall were at work and within four days there were 1,800 imported men on the job. Nearly 3,000 houses were repaired and reoccupied within two weeks of the raid.

REPAIR MEN UNLOAD BURNING MUNITIONS

Again in Liverpool each night for nine nights the city was bombed, but the work went on and houses, factories, roads, railways and docks were put into some sort of useful order. During one raid volunteers were called from the repair men to unload a munitions ship which was on fire; there was no shortage of offers and the selected men went on board. The ship steamed out to sea, and unloading was started where an explosion could do no damage to the docks.

Meanwhile, the repair of factories went on apace. In the Midlands one factory appeared to be hopelessly and permanently out of action, with hardly a girder left in its original position. S.R.S. men were rushed in to work on the morning of Easter Sunday, 1941. Within seven days part of the factory was working again, and in three weeks it was in almost complete operation.

SELF-RELIANT SHOCK SQUAD FORMED

Later, a shock squad of 600 men was formed in ten compact, self-reliant flying squads, complete with mobile feeding and sleeping accommodation, materials and equipment. Each squad was equipped with specially designed vehicles—three fitted with 16 bunks each, a fourth with 12 bunks and a kitchen to provide the squad with three meals a day for seven days.

A five-ton lorry acted as tender to the convoy carrying equipment and sufficient materials to enable the squad to be independent for seven days. Thus when a town is bombed overnight, the men can arrive early the next morning and get to work without calling on local resources for billeting, food, tools or even materials.

Gradually the focus of the builder's war effort changed again, for another huge programme of airfields and camps for the accommodation of the United States Forces in Britain was started.

VOLUNTEERS SIGN FOR A YEAR

The immediate solution was to use the S.R.S. The long-term solution was to appeal for "Building Volunteers" who, under a war-time Act of Parliament—the Essential Work (Building and Civil Engineering) Order—have both special benefits and special obligations.

The men sign on for a year. At any time after nine months they can give notice to quit, but providing they can get permission from a National Service Officer, they can, like any other scheduled workers, give a week's notice at any time. Similarly, after giving seven days' notice, they can be removed from the Building Volunteers' Register. This is important, for under peace time conditions a building operative is never sure of his job from hour to hour, even

Aircraft crates which a few years ago housed fighter planes, brought by sea to India, are to-day being employed in a variety of ways. Picture shows *airmen working on the roof of a hangar made from aircraft crates.*

if he is a good worker. In the Building Volunteers he is guaranteed a year's continuous work—unless he misbehaves himself.

GUARANTEED WEEK'S WAGES

Further, he gets a guaranteed week's wages—a matter of vital importance during the British winter, when work often has to be stopped. When working on the payment by results (or bonus) system the men are paid for a minimum of 8 hours a day (4 hours on Saturday) so long as they are capable of and available for work during normal working hours.

When first taking up employment with the Building Volunteers the recruit is issued with a travel warrant and travelling time to that job is paid. Thereafter when transferred from one job to another he is issued with a travel warrant and travelling time is paid at plain time rates.

At the end of every 8 weeks of work away from home the men are entitled to a return railway warrant to spend two nights at home. This includes the Sunday night, and if a man travels back on the first train available on Monday he does not lose his guarantee of wages for the rest of the week.

HOLIDAYS AT FULL TRADE RATES

A member of the Building Volunteers gets one day's holiday at full trade rates for every six weeks of work. Usually men have to save up these holidays until they have been enrolled for six months.

The S.R.S. has been brought into the Building Industry holidays-with-pay scheme, which provides for the payment by employers of weekly contributions which are paid out in the following year as holiday credits. For the year from April 1st, 1943, Britain's Ministry of Works will accordingly pay the contributions and stamp the holiday cards as required under that scheme, as well as allowing one day's holiday for each six weeks of work.

The fact that the men are serving Britain on vitally important work and under Ministry of Works orders is taken into account when deciding the order of call-up of building workers for military service.

A soldier whose main trouble was talkativeness, was on escort duty with a corporal taking an important prisoner to headquarters.

Before starting, he had been told that on no account was he to speak: a bet of a packet of cigarettes had been made that he couldn't remain silent until reaching headquarters.

They went in single file, the soldier quite mute.

On arriving at headquarters, the corporal, without looking round said: "Well, Tommy, you've won the bet."

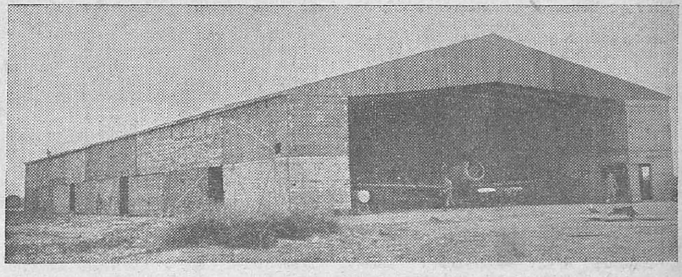
"Yes," replied Tommy. "But you nearly had me when the prisoner escaped."

CLUBHOUSE OUT OF AIRCRAFT CRATES!

AIRCRAFT crates which a few weeks ago housed fighter planes brought by Liberty ships from Britain and the United States are to-day in service with the Royal Air Force in a new role—as bungalows, workshops, and, in one instance, as an aircraft assembly hangar.

On one station in Western India, where the officers and men have to sleep in tents pitched on a strip of silver sand, the N.C.Os. have provided themselves with a little home comfort by building a clubhouse out of two aircraft crates.

A more ambitious use of aircraft has been the construction of a huge hangar at an assembly depot. Fifty crates have gone into the building, the crates forming the sides being used as offices, storerooms and workshops. The rafters and roof are constructed of broken down crates, and the whole job has been carried out by airmen on the station.



Here is a picture which shows 50 of these crates built into a huge hangar at an aircraft assembly depot.

ARMY COMPENSATION FOR CIVILIANS

The Southern Army has recently issued an order clarifying and improving the procedure for payment of compensation to civilians for damage done to property and crops by troops during field training and field firing.

It has always been the Army's policy that investigation of such damage should be made without delay and that prompt payment should follow. To this end a military compensation officer is appointed to act in liaison with a civil opposite appointed by the local civil authorities.

The duty of these officers is daily to inspect damage to property during manœuvres, to assess its value and to pay the agreed compensation *in cash on the spot*. The military compensation officer carries with him sufficient cash to cover all likely damage and obtains a receipt at the time of payment.

Small claims have always been promptly settled. But delay has occurred in the submission of large claims until both troops and compensation officers have dispersed. Investigation has consequently been difficult and, owing to the initial delay, the Army has been unable to make compensation with its customary promptness.

To obviate this, Army authorities are now insisting that all claims must be preferred and settled within three weeks of the last day of the training, which gave rise to them. Local Commanders must obtain a Clearance Certificate from the local civil authorities on the expiry of this period.

It is essential to the working of the compensation scheme that all inhabitants of areas in which projected training operations are to take place should acquaint themselves through the local authorities with the name and location of the Civil Officer appointed to liaise with the military compensation officer. Claims must be submitted immediately they arise and before dispersion of troops.

In the case of field firing, where larger claims for the evacuation of land and villages are likely to arise, the probable cost of compensation and damage is assessed by the local military headquarter in co-operation with the civil authority on the basis of so much per day, half-day or *hour before training begins*. Claims are settled monthly or at the end of the specific period in which training has taken place.

GURKHAS' STUBBORN FIGHT FOR VILLAGE

THERE companies of the Fifth Royal Gurkha Rifles, serving with Eighth Indian Division in Italy, led the frontal attack on the German winter line on the River Sangro, writes an Indian Army Observer. The wresting of the village of Mozzagrogna from the Germans took over 36 hours of ceaseless fighting but despite fierce counter-attacks the Gurkhas, with the help of two British companies and another Indian detachment who joined them later, finally succeeded in ousting the enemy from their strongholds.

Supported by a heavy artillery barrage the Gurkhas crept to the village after nightfall. The main objective lay on the far side of the village. The advance provoked serious opposition, both in the surrounding woods and the streets, but the leading companies broke in with bayonet and kukri and fought their way through.

Against firmly entrenched enemy forces the Gurkhas again put in a succession of bayonet charges. Prominent in this action was Jemadar Jita Ghale, champion shot of the Indian Army for several years. Although wounded he personally led his men in the hand-to-hand fighting.

As the Gurkhas began to take hold heavy shelling and desperate counter-attacks followed. But Captain T. Allen, one of the company commanders, although twice wounded, organized such a stubborn resistance that the attacks made no headway until the enemy sent his tanks and flame-throwers in the morning. Even then the Gurkhas did not retire; they drew apart and let the tanks go through. They fought the German infantry who came in the wake of the tanks.

Orders were given at this stage for a slight withdrawal to a position just behind the village which was more favourable to meet further tank attacks. Owing to damage to W/T sets the order did not reach all. Small parties of Gurkhas fought on in different parts of the village. When this became apparent the British companies ignored the order for withdrawal and stood their ground in order to get the Gurkhas out of what might have developed into a death trap.

Captain John Huban, commanding the third company, organized a stand to assist the forward companies but was killed in the close fighting that ensued. Subedar Ujibahadur Gurung, who had taken over command from the wounded Captain Allen, managed to extricate the two forward companies but held on in the town for four hours to get the wounded away and to collect the isolated parties still waging their own war against German sub-units.

On the second night fresh Indian troops arrived and the village of Mozzagrogna was occupied.

PICTURES FROM THE

INDIAN TROOPS IN ITALY.—Indian soldiers fraternising with and introducing themselves to the inhabitants. These were the first Indian troops these villagers had seen.

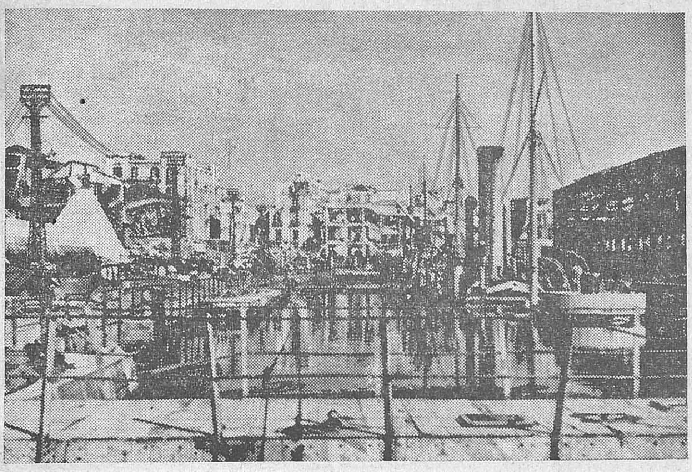
INDIAN TROOPS IN ITALY.—A recce patrol of men from the Punjab.

FOR THOSE IN

["Hymn for Airmen" was sung at a recent Battle of Britain memorial service in Cairo Cathedral. It was written in a London Tube train in July 1940 by Air Vice-Marshal (then Group Captain) E.B.C. Betts, D.S.C., D.F.C. The hymn was set to music by Flight Sergeant Clifford Harker, former organist at Durham Cathedral, now organist at Cairo Cathedral.]

Inspire, O Lord, our men who fly
Their winged chariots on high
Across the dark and tortured sky.
Take them beneath Thy loving care,
Protect them wheresoe'er they fare
From all the dangers of the air.

ITALIAN FRONT



SHAMBLES OF NAPLES' WATERFRONT AFTER GERMAN RETREAT.—Devastation of the waterfront of the great Italian seaport city of Naples is shown in this photograph made after the Allied Fifth Army liberated the city. Retreating German forces scuttled ships and blasted harbour installations in a methodical programme of destruction. Reconstruction of the harbour is proceeding under direction of Allied Military Government and Neapolitan officials.

British Infantry moving forward on the Fifth Army Front.

PERIL IN THE AIR

Thy sheltering wings, O Lord, extend
And succour, help, protect, defend,
Where Man-made thunders roar and rend.
Give them the only aid that's sure,
A steadfast courage to endure,
The strength of ten that fills the pure.

Bear Thou them up upon their way,
Be Thou their comfort and their stay
Through perils of their every day.
Grant them Thy shield from all that harms
And peace at last from war's alarms
Within Thine everlasting arms.

AN ENEMY COUNTER-ATTACK WAS REPELLED

THE story of how Indian troops repulsed a counter-attack against a ridge in Central Italy is told by an Indian Army Observer.

The enemy had been making preparations, and suddenly his guns opened fire. Our guns fired a few ranging shells and then waited for the advance of the enemy.

The German mortars opened up. Their range was perfect for their gunners knew the ground thoroughly. These multiple-mortars of "Nebelwerfers," known as "sobbing-sisters" to us, make a terrific din. Overhead Focke-Wulfs dived out of the clouds, dropped their bombs, and serried away from the ever-watchful Spitfires which were always on their tails. The air was full of shell-bursts from Borers and anti-aircraft guns. Over the trenches were the bursts of the German anti-personnel shells fired from their field guns.

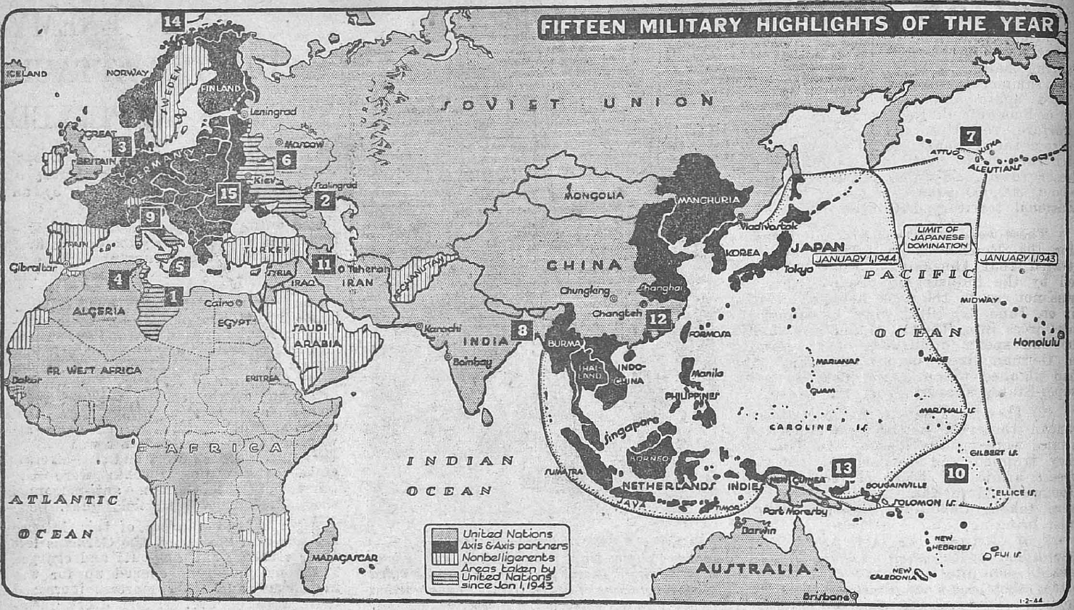
After fifteen minutes of this intense shelling and mortaring the Germans left their trenches and dug-outs and charged Their machine-guns opened up for the first time and their mortars increased their rate of fire. From every farm-house the enemy poured fire in our direction. Then the Company commander gave our gunners the signal to open up with the 25-pounders. Their rate of fire was so rapid that the enemy believed them to be automatic. A screen of bursting shells fell some 300 yards in front of our trenches. The Germans caught in the open had to duck and run. All the while our Vickers machine-guns and Bren guns were sweeping the ground and searching every dip and available cover for the enemy. Our tanks and anti-tank gunners waited for the mark IV tanks but they never came for the Germans had had enough. A few of the enemy got through the barrage but our men leapt out of their weapon pits with grenades and fixed bayonets, and before long the Germans came forward with upstretched arms. The shelling died down. When the German guns fired a round at our trenches, they received more in return than they bargained for. Finally, there was quiet once again.

Stretcher-bearers in jeeps went forward and brought back wounded, both ours and German.

Throughout the attack messages piled up. Signals lay heaped before the General Staff at formation H.Q. Methodically a staff officer went through the pile and scribbled on a pad memo. for the evening sitrep, "An enemy counter-attack was repelled."

The old question. "Why is a ship called 'she'?" was raised recently at an informal "quiz" contest among members of the Allied navies in London.

A bright Netherlander provided the most interesting answer. "A ship coming into port always attaches herself to the buoys," he said.



—*With acknowledgments to New York* Times.

1. JAN. 23—British take Tripoli.
2. FEB. 2—Germans surrender at Stalingrad.
3. FEB. 24—Bombing of Wilhelmshaven opens "round-the-clock" Allied attacks on Germany.
4. MAY 7—Allies take Tunis and Bizerte, ending Battle of Africa.
5. JULY 10—Allies invade Sicily.
6. JULY 12—Russians open summer offensive.
7. AUG. 21—Americans retake Kiska.
8. AUG. 25—Lord Louis Mountbatten appointed Commander of Southeastern Asia.
9. SEPT. 3—British land in Italy.
10. NOV. 21—Americans invade Gilbert Islands.
11. NOV. 28-DEC. 1—Teheran meeting maps Allied strategy in Europe for 1944.
12. DEC. 9—Chinese recapture Changteh.
13. DEC. 16—Allied forces land on New Britain.
14. DEC. 26—British sink the *Scharnhorst*.
15. DEC. 30—Russians win Battle of the Kiev bulge.

MAIN TRENDS AND EVENTS OF 1943

By JOHN STANTON

THE year 1943 was a year of battle. It was also a year of preparation for the knockout blows of 1944 and for the peace to come. Everywhere around the globe the forces of the United Nations were on the offensive, and as the armies drove forward Allied statesmen, in a series of historic conferences, forged a tighter unity among the powers of the grand alliance.

The tide of war had turned. The years of Axis victories were over. In 1939 Poland had fallen. In 1940, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium and France had gone down. In 1941, the Wehrmacht overran Yugoslavia and Greece and carried the war to the gates of Moscow, while Japan attacked the United States and made the struggle truly global. In 1942, German legions thrust deep into the Caucasus and invaded Egypt, a giant pincers movement that for months threatened the entire Middle East. In Asia, Japan won an empire. The Axis tide had reached its high-water mark. In the closing days of 1942 American and British forces landed in North Africa. Russia struck back. The United Nations thereafter never allowed the advantage gained then to slip from their fingers.

In the struggle for Allied victory the United States took a great part. American fighting man-power abroad grew in a year's time from 1,700,000 to 3,800,000. American factories, performing miracles of production, turned out 52,000 airplanes, 23,000 tanks, 40,000 pieces of artillery and much else in one eight-month period.

THE WEST

The skies over Germany—Allied strategic plans call for German defeat first, for Japanese defeat second—were dark as 1943 closed. The armies of the Reich were in retreat. The power of Germany's foes was being felt on every side.

In the East the Red army was driving the German invaders from Russian soil, while in the Mediterranean theatre American and British forces were moving slowly up the Italian peninsula. Overhead Allied air fleets smashed at German cities, industries and communications. In Britain powerful armies were gathering for the moment of Allied assault upon the western walls of Hitler's conquered continent. The Reich, looking forward to a grim year, could look back upon four major defeats in 1943.

(1) Germany suffered its greatest blow of the year on the blood-soaked steppes of Russia. There the Red Army, after eighteen months of bitter warfare which saw the loss of an estimated 4,000,000 Russian soldiers, 527,000 square miles of Russian land, 30 per cent of the Russian population, 50 per cent of the food-producing areas, 40 per cent of the coal deposits, 50 per cent of the steel and cast iron and 40 per cent of the machine-tool industry, took the offensive with a power and force that astonished the world.

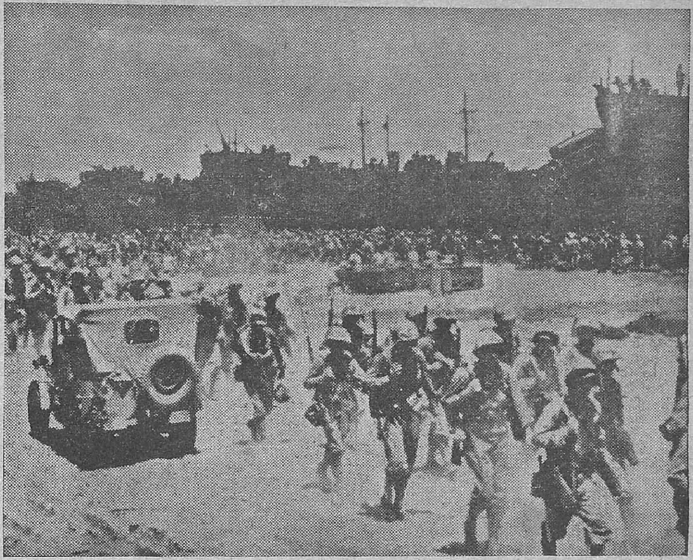
OVER RUSSIA'S PLAINS

From Stalingrad on the Volga and the shadows of the Caucasian oil derricks, the Russian troops in drives of

late winter hurled the once-invincible Wehrmacht legions across the snowy plains of the Donbas. Russia's wet spring halted the offensive. Then in the summer the Red armies moved forward again and in the greatest sustained assault in the history of modern warfare rolled the Nazi forces back across the Dnieper, freed the cities of Kharkov and Kiev and hundreds of lesser towns. By the end of the year about 300,000 square miles of Russian national territory had been redeemed.

These were defeats of first magnitude for the Reichsfuehrer. They demonstrated that German man-power, backed by the industry of captive Europe, was not up to the task he had set for it on June 22, 1941, when he launched his forces into Russia. Land for which he had spent hundrdeds of thousands of German lives, land upon which he had planned to build the new German super-State, slipped from his grasp.

(2) There was defeat in the Mediterranean theatre. British and American armies were on the march. In Tunisia they trapped and crushed the veteran desert armies of Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. More than 175,000 prisoners were taken, including eighteen generals, bringing total Axis losses in three years of African warfare to 950,000 men killed or captured, 2,400,000 gross tons of shipping sunk and 8,000 airplanes shot down or destroyed on the ground. The Italian empire was gone. Nazi dreams of African empire were buried in the German graves that stretch all the way from El Alamein to Cap Bon. The Mediterranean seaways were open to Allied shipping, bringing the ports of the Far East 7,200 miles nearer New York, 7,300 miles nearer Southampton.



United States Marines disembark on shores of Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

BATTLE FOR ITALY

Then the Allies struck at Italy, crossing the sea to conquer Sicily in thirty-eight days of lightning warfare. Under this blow the regime of Benito Mussolini collapsed after twenty-one years of power. Italy, under King Victor Emmanuel and Marshal Pietro Badoglio, surrendered unconditionally to the Allies. Its 1,500,000-man army disintegrated, some of the units turning their weapons over to Yugoslav and Greek patriots, thus strengthening Germany's enemies. The Italian Fleet, second largest in Europe since the destruction of the French Fleet, came under United Nations control. The Italian Government was recognized as co-belligerent with the Allies against Germany. Hard-pressed German manpower had to undertake the defence of the Italian "boot" against General Dwight D. Eisenhower's troops, who came swarming on to the Italian mainland along the Calabrian coast and at Salerno and began to fight their way north toward Rome against stiff Nazi resistance.

DEFEAT IN THE SKIES

(3) There was defeat for Germany in the skies. Starting in February and continuing with mounting effectiveness throughout the year, Allied air fleets pressed home a strategic offensive against German industry. Twenty-five major cities—including Berlin, the capital, that escaped almost unscathed while German bombers were hammering Warsaw, Rotterdam and London—were placed on the target list. By the end of the year nine were so thoroughly battered that they were believed useless for further war production. The remaining twelve were heavily damaged. Estimates were that more than 300,000 tons of bombs have been dropped on the targets since March 1. The *Luftwaffe* pulled in its fighter planes from the fronts to halt these attacks. Though they took heavy toll of British and American fliers the assaults aimed at the heart of Germany's power to wage war grew in fury.

(4) At sea there was also defeat for the Reichsfuehrer. Germany had counted on the U-boat to halt the flow of supplies and men across the seas to the fighting fronts. That plan failed when Allied counter-measures ended the threat. In the early months of 1943 submarines were destroyed at the rate of two a day, one a day at some periods. In August, September and October sixty were sunk, twenty-seven by American forces and thirty-three by British and Canadian. Carrier-based aircraft—they sank twenty-one of the twenty-seven destroyed by Americans—together with other new methods of attack provided the answer to submarines. American shipyards, building a monthly average of 1,600,000 gross tons in 1943 against 700,000 gross tons in 1942, provided the bottoms to move the supplies over the seas.

FROM ALL SIDES

These defeats complemented one another to compound Germany's difficulties. The Red Army tied up some 200 Nazi divisions in gigantic battles, divisions that might otherwise have been used in the west, and the Russian front absorbed the greater part of German war production. German divisions that might otherwise have been used in Russia were pinned down in Italy and forced to guard against the long-awaited invasion from the west. Increased Allied war production and the victory over the U-boats aided Russia, for the United States alone sent some 6,500 lend-lease airplanes, 3,000 tanks, 125,000 submachine guns, 145,000 trucks, 25,000 jeeps, and much other equipment, to the Red armies. British and American bombers cut Germany's production.

THE EAST

In the Far Eastern theatre of war the year ended on a somber note for Japan. The victories of 1942, which won for Nippon an empire in Asia and Oceania containing most of the world's tin and rubber and large shares of its oil and rice, had been followed by months of draining defeats. The year opened with a sober message to the Japanese people from Premier Hideki Tojo. "The real with Emperor Hirohito's telling the with Emperor Hirohito's telling the Japanese Diet in an imperial rescript: "The war situation is most serious."

Behind Japanese worry lay America's growing might. The expectation of the Japanese High Command that America's strength would be dispersed in two great theatres of war had been disappointed. Instead the United States had been able to bring great strength to bear in the west and at the same time to build up its forces in the east. The American Navy, of whose seventeen battleships two

were sunk and six damaged at Pearl Harbor, had recovered from this and subsequent losses and grown into a mighty striking force of 850 fighting ships, a force believed to be three times that Japan is able to bring into action.

ATTACKS IN THE PACIFIC

Japan felt the power of her enemies probing along the periphery of her stolen empire all through the year. In the North Pacific her forces perched on the outermost of the Aleutians were destroyed or driven out. In the Central Pacific, Makin and Tarawa islands in the Gilberts were captured in a bloody assault by marines and soldiers, the first step in an island-to-island advance on Truk, Japan's "Pearl Harbor." In the South Pacific, Americans, who a year ago were just bringing the battle for Guadalcanal to a successful close, moved up the Solomons "ladder" of islands 500 miles to Bougainville, threatening the Japanese base at Rabaul on New Britain Island. General MacArthur's Americans and Australians cleared part of New Guinea's north shore of Japanese and crossed to New Britain in a multiple drive aimed at Rabaul, thus opening what the Japanese Emperor called "the decisive stage in which the rise or fall of our nation will be determined."

The Japanese felt growing Allied power on the Asiatic mainland. On the ground in China the protracted bloody struggle with Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's troops continued indecisively. In the skies, American aircraft changed the aspect of the war. No longer were Japanese "terror" raids permitted upon Chungking and other cities. Heavy blows were dealt to Japanese bases and shipping. In India, under Lord Louis Mountbatten, once head of Britain's Commandos, since August Supreme Commander in South-east Asia, foces were being mustered to redeem the wealth of Burma and open the roads over which supplies could flow to the Chinese armies. Success would mean that the weight of Allied land power could be brought to bear against the Japanese armies upon the continent of Asia, where a final decision might be forced.

THE CONFERENCES

What in the end may prove the greatest defeat suffered by the Axis during 1943 did not take place upon the battlefield. The defeat was diplomatic, stemming from the new spirit of agreement and unity built during the year by the statesmen of the Allied countries. Germany had attempted to use old suspicions existing between Communist Russia and her capitalist allies to keep them divided while she defeated each in its turn. Japan had hoped the clash of rival interests in the Pacific would keep her enemies apart. These hopes had failed, and in their failure the prospects of the United Nations, not only of winning the war but also of winning the peace, grew brighter.

ALLIED CONFERENCES

Six conferences were held during the year among leading figures of the United Nations' world. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill met at Casablanca in January. They met again at the White House in May and during August they held a series of talks at the President's Hyde Park estate, at the Citadel of Quebec and at the White House. In October, the Conference of Foreign Ministers, the twelve fruitful meetings of Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Foreign Commissar V. M. Molotov, occurred at Moscow. In November and December came the climatic sessions: President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill travelled to the Middle East to confer with Generalissimo Chiang of China at Cairo and with Marshal Stalin of Russia at Teheran.

These meetings were concerned with the war. It was necessary, Prime Minister Churchill said, for the leaders to keep always a march ahead of events on the battlefields and events were marching fast. At Casablanca, with the campaign in Tunisia still under way, the invasion of Sicily and the attack on Italy were planned. New blows against Japan were plotted at Washington in May. The decision to invade Europe from the western seas in 1944 was taken at Quebec. At Cairo and Teheran the final preparations for the great blows of the new year, for the intensification of the war, both in the east and in the west, were completed.

The meetings were also concerned with the peace. There were signs that the political problems of the future were on the agenda at all of these meetings. After Casablanca the two western leaders rejected a Nazi peace offensive with a demand for "unconditional surrender." After Quebec they made plain their determination that this time the men responsible for the war, the Nazi leaders and Prussian and Japanese militarists, would not escape. But it was not until the Conference of Foreign Ministers and the meetings in the Middle East that the shape of the future began to emerge.

PATTERN FOR THE FUTURE

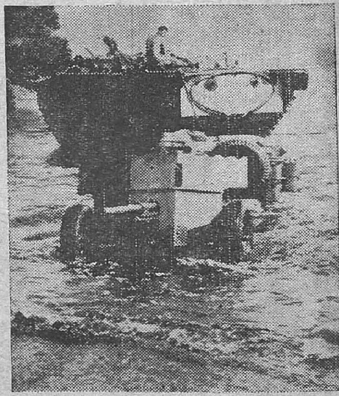
From these sessions the peoples of the Axis countries learned what "unconditional surrender" would mean, the peoples of the conquered countries what an Allied victory would hold. From Moscow came a demand for the punishment of war criminals. The pattern for the conquered countries seemed set in a declaration favouring re-establishment of Austrian independence. For Germany the future seemed indicated in a declaration to encourage Italian democratic groups, suppress fascist organizations. At Cairo it was decided to strip Japan of her power to wage war, take away all the territory she acquired by conquest after 1895, reduce her to the status of a third-class power. Many problems—the Russo-Polish boundary dispute outstanding among them—were left for the future lest debate of them now should disturb Allied unity. The over-all picture Moscow, Cairo and Teheran produced was of a peace in which the rights of small countries would be respected, a peace small-nation politics would not be permitted to endanger.

THE HOME FRONT

America worked hard in 1943. It produced more than 50 per cent more munitions than in 1942 more than 5 per cent more foodstuffs than the all-time record yield of the previous year. It sent its man-power to the training camps and fighting fronts in increasing numbers and enlisted an additional 3,000,000 women to hold its working force at the 65,000,000 mark. The effort strained the national economy.

Foremost among the home-front problems brought by the war was the increasing danger of inflation. The country had more money to spend and proportionately less to spend it on than at any

UNITED STATES MEDICAL OFFICER GIVES BLOOD TRANSFUSION TO GERMAN PRISONER IN ITALY.—An American medical officer administers a blood transfusion to a wounded German prisoner who fell into Allied hands during the campaign against German forces on the Italian mainland.



American tank become front end of trailer as it churns up beach near Cape Gloucester, New Britian, pulling guns and military vehicles for United States' marine's advance on Jap-held island.

other time in its history. The excess spending-power—the "inflationary gap" men came to call it—was variously estimated at from $25,000,000,000 to $44,000,000,000. Bidding for scarce goods, it forced prices up. At many vital points they penetrated the anti-inflation ceilings set in 1942. The price increases, particularly in the case of foodstuffs, brought demands for higher wages. The prospect of a race between prices and wages loomed threateningly. Efforts to reduce the excess spending power by higher taxes and increased war-bond sales were not wholly successful.

Through the year the struggle to hold prices and wages stable was fought out. In April President Roosevelt issued a "hold-the-line" order against further increases but pressures continued, increased. In one aspect of the fight the country's 530,000 coal miners struck four times to win the largest part of their wage demands. Their victory opened the way to campaigns for increased wages by the 1,450,000 railroad workers—the Government took over the railroads to prevent a strike and the workers gained some of their demands—and the 350,000 steel workers. There were other aspects. Farm groups sought higher prices. Some business groups worked against the OPA. By the end of the year the inflationary forces had won some ground.

STRAINS OF WAR

Underneath this dominating issue other problems plagued the nation. Man-power shortages and dislocations grew more serious. Prisoners of war worked in America's fields and the need for a national man-power mobilization act was under intermittent debate. This question, entwined with serious sociological considerations, received sharpest reflection when Congress passed and the President signed a bill putting pre-Pearl Harbour fathers last on the draft lists. Shortages in civilian goods also grew. Despite record crops there were shortages in foodstuffs. In March canned goods were rationed and housewives learned to count in "points" as well as money when making purchases.

These were among the questions Americans discussed in 1943. The discussion took place in a new political atmosphere. The Republicans had made important gains in the Congressional elections of 1942 and Congress was more independent, less responsive to Administration leadership, than at any other time during President Roosevelt's three terms. The elections of November, 1943, mostly for State and local offices, showed a continuing Republican trend. The country, many observers thought, was satisfied with the Administration's conduct of the war, dissatisfied with its efforts to solve the problems of the home front. It will hand down its final verdict in the Presidential election of 1944.

New York *Times*.

They tell an anecdote about a soldier on guard duty for the first time at night. He heard a strange noise, fired at it, then called out: "Who went there?"

JAPAN'S INCREASING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES

WHILE Japan's setbacks in the Southern Pacific are a source of much satisfaction to the Allies, it must not be inferred that the enemy is any nearer willingness to accept unconditional surrender, and this becomes more obvious on consideration of Japan's economic position. Indeed, she has grave and fundamental economic weaknesses, but on the other hand for years she has been preparing for unlimited aggression in the Far East and has made up a lot of ground.

Nevertheless she still suffers from a shortage of certain materials such as copper, cobalt, antimony, cotton, silk, rayon and staple fibre, wool, salt and potash.

The textile industry was in peacetime the most considerable. She imported raw cotton from the United States and from India, and exported cotton piecegoods all over the world and in particular to the Pacific area. Her entry into the war immediately cut off her two main sources of supply; she was forced to rely on the meagre production of raw cotton in the countries she eventually overrun. Given ideal conditions for the growing of cotton, such as those in the United States, it is estimated that it is impossible for Japan to obtain from occupied countries sufficient quantities of raw cotton to meet half her own normal internal requirements. In no circumstances could she obtain sufficient raw cotton to meet the needs of the inhabitants of the "Co-Prosperity Sphere." The use of rayon and silk can only help her out of this difficulty to a minor extent.

COTTON SCARCITY

Formerly the world's largest producer and exporter of silk, which represented a most important item in her agricultural economy, the silk exported to the United States is available to alleviate the cotton shortage. But in order to step up food production the authorities have reduced the production of silk by about a third. While very great strides in the production of rayon and staple fibre have been made, two facts plainly emerge: (*a*) Japan's supply of wood pulp is limited; (*b*) Japan is gravely handicapped by a small quantity of caustic soda.

Normally Japan imported wool in vast quantities from Australia. She is now obliged to rely entirely upon the resources of North China and Mongolia. Wool has become a necessity for the Japanese. Staple fibre uniforms will not stand up to the wear and tear of war and, in the colder climates, wool is essential for warmth.

Japan faces a tremendous shortage of raw cotton. She has been obliged to close down nearly all her cotton mills. She is compelled to substitute rayon, staple fibre and silk mixtures, but she is not able to do more than meet her own peacetime requirements of textiles. She has no surplus for export, and what she has is of extremely poor quality. It can therefore be said that the production of textiles is a major problem for Japan at the moment, and one which the acquisition of large territories in the Far East has done little to alleviate.

Against these shortages must be set surpluses in other directions. For example, with the production of Formosa there is ample sugar, but the difficulty is what use to make of the huge sugar production of the Philippines and the Netherlands East Indies.

With rubber the situation is not dissimilar. Requirements are roughly 70,000 metric tons a year and Indo-China, now in Japan's occupation, can supply practically all that Japan wants. In fact, she is faced with the problem of what to do with a production which is about 90 per cent of the total world output. Germany's rubber deficiency is nearly as great as Japan's surplus, and the former could be met but for the British blockade. Cargoes are said to have been brought to Europe by submarines, but if so the quantity is too small to relieve the situation. Through her conquests she has also acquired enormous quantities of coal, oil iron ore, raw materials of the aluminium industry, tin, magnesite for production of metallic magnesium, wolfram, chrome and vegetable oils, lead and a virtual monopoly of cinchona bark, the only source of natural quinine, vital to troops operating in malaria-infested districts.

The limiting factors for Japan in the advantage she can gain from newly acquired rich territories are shortages of skilled labour, and, above all, of shipping. These are the two fundamental weaknesses of the whole Japanese economic system. These are the chinks in the Japanese armour.—*Financial Times*.

Hitler and Goering were at Ostend gazing sadly across the Channel towards England. Suddenly Goering said, "Adolf. I have an idea. When I was at school I remember we learned a story about a man who divided the sea in order to enable his army to cross on dry land." Then he added doubtfully, "But I think that man was a Jew."

Hitler cared little for that and immediately sent for a Rabbi. When he arrived, the Fuehrer asked him, "Is it true that a Jew once divided the sea, leaving dry land for his army to cross?"

"Certainly," was the answer. "That was Moses."

"Where is he now?"

"I am afraid he has been dead a long time."

"Then tell me how he did it."

"By striking the sea with a stick given by God."

"And where is that stick now?" shouted the excited Fuehrer.

"The stick," was the quiet reply, "Oh, that is in the British Museum."

CAUTIONARY COUNSELS

(*By* R.G.)

No. VII. Abdulla, Who Wangled Petrol and Scorched Himself to Death.

Abdulla was not really vicious.
He only found high speed delicious
And therefore bought himself whole fleets
Of cars to rush about the streets
And down the open roads and lanes
As though in low-flying aeroplanes.
But he was really sorry when
He killed a careless goat or hen;
And if a woman down he knocked or
Flattened out he fetched a doctor.

Through years of peace Abdulla trod
Upon the gas and felt a god,
Nor did the war at first impede
His usual bursts of headlong speed.
But when war's difficulties grew
And tankers came here none or few
He was informed he must reduce
His monthly gluttony of juice
And curb his locomotive passion
Within the limits of his ration.
However he might ask for more,
They only showed him to the door:
However he might rave or shout
The A.R.O. just showed him out.

Then to Abdulla tempter showed
Where the black market petrol flowed:
And (it's with grief the fact I tell)
Abdulla listened, saw and fell.
Of coupons by a cunning racket
He crookedly amassed a packet;
And when the coupons too ran out
He stifled shame and bought without!

See now the villain take the road
And (well concealed) a monstrous load
Of tins and tins of petrol stowed.
From Saidapet to Coimbatore
And Mettupalaiyam and Coonoor
And Gudalur and Bangalore
And back to Saidapet once more:
Then off upon a southward road
To Madura the blest abode
Of gods and mills and two Collectors,
Or north and west through other sectors
He races in a dusty cloud,
Driving like Lucifer the proud
And scattering the tardy yokel
With blasts electrical and vocal.

It was too good to last. It seems
Two tins were leaking, and the streams
Of petrol went on pouring while
Abdulla dashed from mile to mile:
And when the heedless idiot lit
A cigarette, that finished it.
The tins acquired by wangling sordid
A costly funeral pyre afforded.

Moral

Use petrol carefully and go
(As wartime drivers ought to) slow.

"WE DO EVERYTHING"

WORK OF I.E.M.E.

THE scene is the Indo-Burma front. An emergency call goes out and within a short time a handful of men of the Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers are on the spot ready to perform one of their quietly spectacular jobs of improvisation, and thereby to avert probable disaster to an isolated body of British and Indian troops menaced by a sudden Japanese thrust.

The troops were holding a forward position. Overnight a rain-storm broke and stretches of the road connecting them with the base area were washed away; simultaneously patrols reported that the Japanese were massing for attack.

Reinforcements and supplies were needed, and immediately, to move them forward hundreds of lorries had, somehow, to be got over the washed-out road. The job was turned over to a small force of I.E.M.E. men who borrowed a number of winches and breakdown lorries from other units. A "cable railway" was improvised and, hour after hour, day and night, the convoys were winched over the worst parts of the road.

The vital trucks arrived in time, the troops were reinforced, and the Japs were beaten back. And the I.E.M.E. had done another typical job in characteristic fashion.

The I.E.M.E. came into being on the first of May last year. It was modelled on the successful R.E.M.E., itself a child of this war and a product of the belief that a craftsman's job—and tools—must be handled by a specialized craftsman.

The motto of the corps is "Omnia Facimus"—"We do everything." It is a motto they have earned, for every piece of military equipment, from watches to big guns, from typewriters to tanks, is their responsibility.

Their functions, as described recently by Major-General D. R. Dugid, Director of Mechanical Engineering, are, briefly, to get damaged equipment repaired and back to the fighting troops and to cut down rearward movement of damaged material to the irreducible minimum.

To meet its needs, the corps developed the four-echelon repair system: first echelon—the light aid detachments, small mobile units operating in the forward areas; second echelon—mobile workshops which function on the fringe of the battle; third echelon—semi-mobile workshops on the lines of communications; and fourth echelon—static base workshops well outside the battle area, equipped with the most valuable and intricate equipment available, and capable of doing every conceivable type of repair work.

Indicative of the I.E.M.E.'s versatility and scope of activities is the fact that they make surgical instruments and artificial limbs for Indian hospitals.

Biggest problem to-day facing I.E.M.E. is the shortage of skilled Indian officers and Armament Artificers—the king-pins of the corps units. The situation is being met by a vast and accelerated training scheme for both officers and men, but it is not anticipated that the benefits of these will be reaped for many months.

LANDED IN INDIA ON SUNDAY AND SHOT A LEOPARD ON THURSDAY

How many people have been in India for years and yet have never set eyes on a wild animal.

Sgt. Mervyn Phillips is an exceptional case. He landed in India from the U.K. on a Sunday, and on the following Thursday afternoon was kneeling by his first "kill"—a leopard measuring 7 feet from nose to tail-tip.

Strangely enough the animal was not hunted in the midst of thick jungle. It was at large in a main road near an important military headquarters right in the heart of a busy town.

How it got there is a mystery but it is believed that it was the "pet" of a local civilian. However, it was a danger to the public.

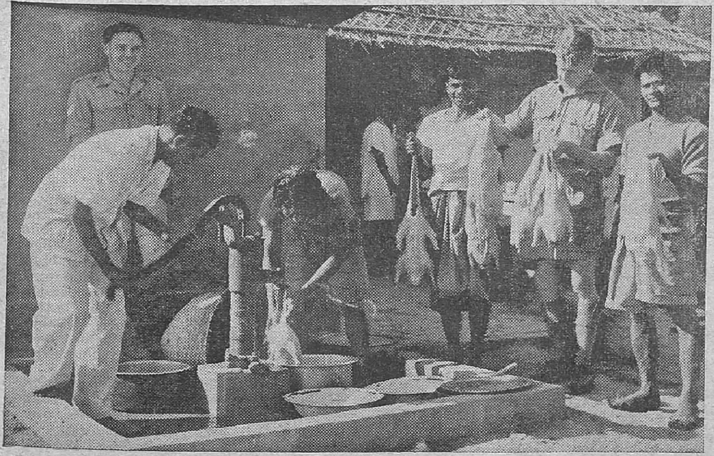
Sgt. Phillips was waiting for his pay when two excited men rode up on bicycles, one mauled on the forearm, shouting that the animal was at large. Orders were given for it to be shot and Phillips ran to a near-by armoury, grabbed a ·303 Service Rifle and ten rounds, and was soon on the scene.

Sgt. Mervyn Phillips is seen sitting by the side of his first "kill" a leopard measuring 7 feet from nose to tail-tip.

"The road was bounded on each side by a 9-foot wall and there were scores of people standing along the tops" said Phillips.

"I jumped up at a point where the wall was empty and, looking over, spotted the leopard only about 15 feet away from me. When it saw me it tried to leap up the wall at me. Fortunately it fell back again and as it hit the ground I got it behind the ear with a quick shot. I think it was dead then, but I've never shot big game before; so I put two more shots into it to make sure,"

Sgt. Phillips, a regular soldier, was in India before from 1934–37. but the only living things he has ever shot before this were Germans in France during 1940.



X'MAS WITH THE R.A.F. ON BURMA FRONT.—Wild boar, python steaks and roast sucking pig took the place of the traditional turkey for Christmas dinner for R.A.F. air and ground crews at forward airfields on the Burma Front. Open air church services were held at all airfields on Christmas morning. Indian cooks assisting Corporal N. Foster (No. 1051686) of 4, Ramshill Road, Scarborough, Yorks, to pluck and wash geese.

M DRASSI SOLDIERS MAKE MERRY

Madrassi troops somewhere on the Assam-Burma border are showing that Madrassis of all creeds can come together as a man over good fare and in good cheer.

On the afternoon of Christmas day men of all creeds sat down at festive boards, turned on a gramophone with Madrassi records and exchanged tales of home over sweets and cakes made by themselves. Sepoy Raju of Tanjore treated his comrades to songs of the South and in particular to some of his own compositions now celebrated in the unit.

Feasting off a meal of mutton kurma and bread pudding, men of a G.P.T. company were content to forget the night's labours, when they had themselves worked under the expert supervision of Subedar Gabriel of Tanjore to turn border goat to Madrassi delicacy.

A signal unit went one better by erecting its own pandal with decorated archway and inviting its officers to share in its festivity. At the head of a long common dining-table proud Havildar Nazir Ahmed Khan of Guntur did the honours with true southern liberality. In sumptuous procession came pulao, kheer and sambar. Lance-Naik Jacob of Trivandrum made a finished little speech of welcome.

A comfortable Sergeants' mess made by the men themselves out of aircraft-packing cases at a Flying Boat Repair Unit at Karachi.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

26TH JAN.—The Minister of Economic Warfare, Lord Selbourne said, "Germany is facing arising scale of military operations with declining production capacity. That is what we mean, when we say the position is very serious for Germany at the moment."

27TH JAN.—The Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden made a statement on Argentine's break with the Axis.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. C. Attlee said in the Commons that the Governments of the Commonwealth including the Government of India were in constant touch on all subjects of common interests including post-war trade.

28TH JAN.—Mr. Eden made a long statement about the treatment of British prisoners and internees in Japanese hands.

Last night Allied aircraft raided Berlin and dropped about 1,500 tons of bombs.

There was slight German air activity over part of East Anglia and South-east England.

The Inspector-General of A.R.P., Wing-Commander, Hodsell warned the British public of German counter-offensives, when the "Second Front" starts.

29TH JAN.—German planes raided London.

The Allied bombers attacked Berlin, Frankfurt and other places in Germany.

30TH JAN.—Early last night German aircraft bombed places in East Anglia, South-east England including London area.

United States bombers raided Burnswick.

Hitler gave a broadcast talk to his people on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of his seizure of power.

The Chinese military mission has arrived in London.

31ST JAN.—Berlin was again heavily bombed last night.

Hitler has promoted four of his generals.

1ST FEB.—Mr. Churchill told the Commons that Lord Halifax's speech about co-operation in the British Commonwealth was not a pronouncement on behalf of the British Government.

Mr. Churchill had an audience with the King.

* * *

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

26TH JAN.—President Roosevelt in a message to Congress denounced as meaningless and futile the provisions of the bill designed to enable American Armed Service men to take part in the Spring Presidential elections.

28TH JAN.—The United States has suspended oil shipments from the Carrebian area to Spain for the month of February.

29TH JAN.—The "world's most formidable batt'e ship," 45,000-ton was launched to-day.
Missouri.

30TH JAN.—A National Committee for combating Nazi Jew baiting has been formed in United States.

1ST FEB.—President Roosevelt at a Press Conference talked about Jap-atrocities, etc.

* * *

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

26TH JAN.—His Excellency the Viceroy covered over 198 miles by car visiting a number of villages in the district of Bijapur.

A meeting of the Viceroy's Executive Council was held at New Delhi.

In the Chinhills area Allied forces engaged the enemy in several places. Minor Japanese attacks on Rasabil were repulsed. Allied planes attacked Japanese positions near Maungdaw.

27TH JAN.—Mr. Amery answered several questions about India in the House of Commons.

The Viceroy decorated at Poona with medals officers and men of a brigade of which he was formerly the Commander.

28TH JAN.—The Government of India have decided to publish the stories of Japanese frightfulness committed against Allied prisoners of war and internees.

"You are definitely helping to win the war" said the Commander-in-Chief, addressing Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) at New Delhi.

29TH JAN.—His Excellency the Viceroy returned to New Delhi.

31ST JAN.—To-day's South-east Asia Command War Communiqué on activities on the Burma Front gives details for the past few days.

1ST FEB.—General Stilwell told a Press Conference at New Delhi that Chinese forces have penetrated 100 miles into Burma.

* * *

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

26TH JAN.—The Russians captured Gatchina, the main German stronghold in the original Leningrad seige line. It is the junction of Tosno-Narva and Leningrad-Luga railways. Soviet troops are driving swiftly on Sprinsk.

Russia has not accepted the American offer of mediation in the Polish-Russian dispute.

27TH JAN.—The Russians have captured the district centre of Tosno and the railway junction of Volosova. Soviet tank columns are advancing towards Luga.

The Soviet Commission investigating German atrocities in Klin Katyn forest issued its report yesterday.

LAST MONTH. . .—

1ST JAN.—Berlin Heavily bombed.

4TH JAN.—Soviet troops crossed the Polish Frontier.

5TH JAN.—The Red Army took Berdichev.

8TH JAN.—Troops of the Second Ukrainian front captured Kirovograd.

12TH JAN.—Troops of First Ukrainian front captured Sarny.

14TH JAN.—Troops of the White Russian Front captured Mozyr.

18TH JAN.—Mr. Churchill returned to London.

20TH JAN.—Russians captured Novgorod.

21ST JAN.—Red Army took Mga.

26TH JAN.—Soviet troops seized Gatchina.

28TH JAN.—United States Marines captured Natamo Point in New Britain.

29TH JAN.—Soviet forces captured Chudovo and Novo-Sokolniki.

31ST JAN.—Russians resume offensive in the Dnieper bend.

28TH JAN.—The Soviet troops captured Synban. The railway line Bateskya-Dno has been cut. The Red Army is beginning to menace a huge army grouping of three lakhs men.

A change in the structure of the Soviet Union involving extension of rights of individual republics to manage their own foreign affairs is foreshadowed in an official announcement issued in Moscow last night.

29TH JAN.—The Russians captured the German stronghold of Chudovo and Novo-Sokolniki.

30TH JAN.—The Russians are advancing towards Narva, the first important town over the Estonian border. Soviet troops are within 12 miles of Kingisepp on Luga river. The Red Army is within 66 miles of the Latvian border.

31ST JAN.—The Russians have resumed their offensive in the Dneiper Bend. They have reached Kingisepp. Soviet flying columns are within 10 miles of the Estonian border.

1ST FEB.—The Russian troops have captured Kingisepp, the last big Russian town before the Estonian border and also Orla one mile from the Estonian border.

M. Molotov talked about Soviet Foreign policy.

Nikolai Shvernik has been appointed the First Deputy President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.

* * *

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

26TH JAN.—British troops of the Fifth Army have captured Monte Ceracoli. American forces have crossed the Rapido river north of Cassino and the American Fifth Army patrols have penetrated into Cassino itself. Allied spearheads are within 25 miles of Rome. Fierce fighting is going on for Littoria and Aprilia.

27TH JAN.—Allied troops have been in their first clash in the bridgehead south of Rome.

The Secretary of War of the United States Mr. Henry L. Stimson made a statement on the Italian situation.

Mussolini's health is said to be worse.

28TH JAN.—German troops are massing outside Rome for a decisive battle. "Everything is going wonderfully well" said General Alexander, Commander-in-Chief in Italy.

29TH JAN.—The British have captured a bridge 12 miles up the Anzio-Albano road.

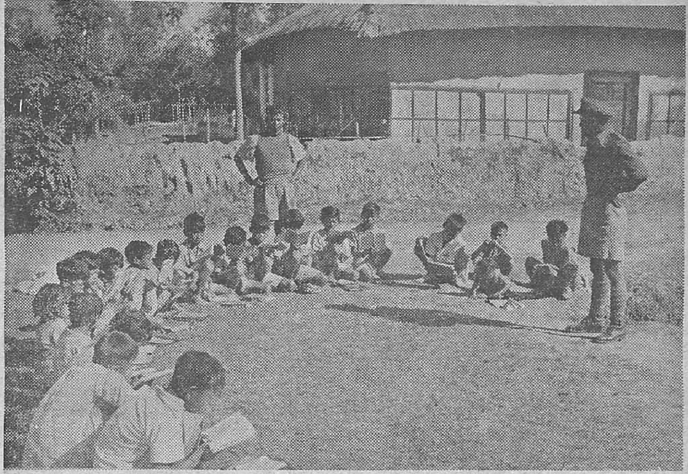
30TH JAN.—The Fifth Army troops have captured Contoneira, Carocetta, Campo-Morto and Borgo Montello.

Mussolini has appealed to Italians to fight against the Allies.

31ST JAN.—The American troops have pierced the Gustav line. Germans withdrew near Albano.

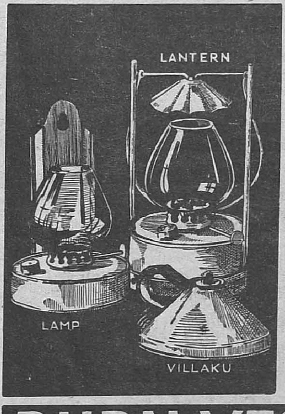
Admiral Sir John Cunningham, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean naval forces, has been ashore at Anzio with Admiral Frank Lowry, United States Navy Commander-in-Chief of the Nettuno naval expedition. Later they held a conference aboard a British warship.

1ST FEB.—British troops thrusting to within 19 miles of Rome have outflanked the German fortified line south of the Albano mountains. Cassino is in danger of toppling.



A twenty-one year old Assistant Adjutant of the Indian Air Force gives some useful elementary pointers to a number of young Manipuri school-children close to an R.A.F. forward airfield.

THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT
RAMA DEEPA LAMP



BEDROOMLAMP Rs.1-
BEDROOMLANTERN as.9
VILLAKU as.2

NOTE
3 OZS. OF GROUNDNUT OIL (COST AS.1) WILL GIVE 18 HOURS OF LIGHT. THEREFORE, AT 3 HOURS PER NIGHT A POOR FAMILY WILL HAVE LIGHT FOR A MONTH FOR ABOUT AS.5.

DISTRIBUTORS. SRIPADA NARASIMHA BROS. COCANADA

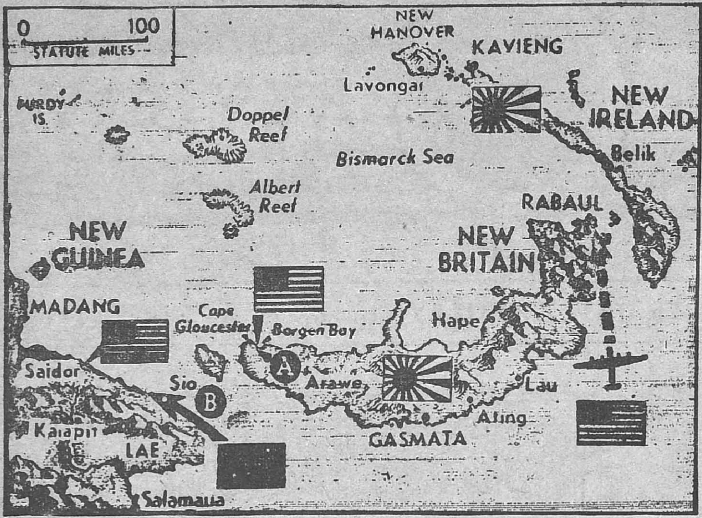
BURN VEGETABLE OIL
SAVE KEROSINE FOR THE WAR

VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

27TH JAN.—Marshal Tito's counter-offensive in Yugoslavia has swept the Germans from Bosnia. His troops occupied Prujavo.

Objectives in Northern France and Holland were attacked by the Allied bombers.

31ST JAN.—M. Stalin has replied to the Yugoslav Premier M. Puritch who made a formal proposal for a treaty of



The above map is useful for judging the intensity of the Allied attack upon Jap positions in the South Pacific. For instance, Allied planes raided Rabaul for the 15th time on January 15, and also blasted Kavieng the same night. Meanwhile, Allied planes caught a 6-ship Jap convoy just north of Kavieng, sank a 10,000-ton cargo vessel and set afire two smaller craft. On January 16, Allied planes broke up an attempted enemy attack on the new United States base at Saidor and shot down 17 Japanese fighters and divebombers with only minor loss. Allied planes dropped 87 tons of bombs on Jap positions east of the United States base at Arawe and destroyed several barges along the New Guinea coast which were trying to bring supplies to the enemy garrisons.

FOR YOUR RADIO DIARY

FEB. 6.—TRICHINOPOLY—9 p.m. "The Challenge of Peace: A United Nations University."

FEB. 7.—LUCKNOW—9-45 p.m. "Twilight of Fascism: the Writing on the wall." By S. V. Puntambekar.

FEB. 8.—PESHAWAR—9-45 p.m. "Facts and Fabrication: Analysis of Axis Broadcasts." By E. A. Thakurdas.

" " CALCUTTA—9 p.m. "The Complete Imperialists: Japan Disgorges."

" " LUCKNOW—9-45 p.m. "The Setting Sun: Analysis of Japanese Radio Propaganda." By Dr. Fred M. Perrill.

FEB. 10.—LAHORE—9-45 p.m. "Lies as Allies." By Kushwant Singh.

" " MADRAS—9-45 p.m. "All out to win: Save More."

" " TRICHINOPOLY—9-45 p.m. "On Land, Sea and Air: Humanity Uprooted." By M. Ruthnasami, C.I.E.

FEB. 12.—BOMBAY—8-20 p.m. "War Commentary."

" " LAHORE—9-45 p.m. "Yesterday in Chungking." By Victor Kiernan.

" " LUCKNOW—9-45 p.m. "Let Japan Speak: the cause for cultural unity." By S. S. Dhawan.

" " MADRAS—9-45 p.m. "Allied Contribution: Idealism for U.S.A." By H. S. Town.

alliance that "Now is not the time" for it.

* * *

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

27TH JAN.—The Spanish Foreign Minister, Count Jordana made a statement on the Spanish neutrality.

31ST JAN.—It is revealed that Sir Samuel Hoare, British Ambassador in Madrid, had an interview with General Franco at the week-end.

The Duke of Alba, Spanish Ambassador to Britain, has arrived at Madrid.

1ST FEB.—The Turkish town of Gerede with 25,000 inhabitants has been destroyed by an earthquake which lasted 50 seconds. Tremors were felt throughout Turkey.

* * *

THE FAR EAST

26TH JAN.—General MacArthur has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. He is 64 to-day and celebrated his birthday with the Sixth Army in New Guinea.

Fifteen districts of Tokyo and eight of the industrial town of Nagoya are to be evacuated it is reported.

27TH JAN.—In the attack on shipping in Simpon Harbour and Keravia bay five Jap cargo ships and one oil tanker were sunk. Allies attacked Momote and Lorengaw airfields.

Rear Admiral Osborne R. Hardison said that the Japanese are conserving that major naval units awaiting for a chance for a sharp smash at Allied air and surface forces in the Pacific.

28TH JAN.—United States Marines have captured Natamo point, the former Japanese barge base in North-Western New Britain. American troops in Bougainville have extended their positions east of Torokina river.

29TH JAN.—"One-third of the Japanese merchant fleet is now in the bottom of the Pacific" said the American Senator Harry S. Truman.

30TH JAN.—Americans attacked Marshall Island atolls Taroa, Wotye and Kwayalein. Allied bombers attacked Lakunai aerodrome in Rabaul. Twenty-three Jap planes were destroyed.

31ST JAN.—A Navy department statement says that United States submarines have sunk 14 more Japanese vessels in the Pacific and the Far East.

Australians occupied a chain of Japanese-held villages 18 miles south-west of the Jap coastal base on Bogadjin.

1ST FEB.—It is officially announced that Americans have landed near Roi and Kwayalein in Marshall Islands and established beachheads elsewhere. Commander-in-Chief of the United States forces in the Pacific, Admiral Chester Nimitz announces that the Japanese were resisting strongly.

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